



## **2011-2012 Summary of Pre-K Program Changes**

This document highlights program guideline changes for the 2011-2012 school year. This is NOT a complete listing of changes. Project directors are encouraged to read the entire document found on the Bright from the Start website at the following address:

<http://www.dec.state.ga.us/PreK/GuidelinesandAppendix.aspx>

### **Funding for New and Expansion Classes**

Due to the budget reduction, no new or expansion classes will be awarded for the 2011-2012 school year.

### **Days of Service**

Pre-K providers are required to prepare and provide a school year calendar for 2011-2012 that accounts for 169 days, which includes a minimum of 160 days of service to families and 9 days of Pre-K related activities/duties (pre- and post-planning, staff development, in-service days) for staff. Programs may convert up to 6 of the staff planning days to student instructional days.

### **Classroom Delivery (Class Size)**

A minimum of 20 and a maximum of 22 children enrolled. Full funding is based on a class of 22.

### **Low Rosters**

Classes with fewer than 19 students enrolled will be considered for closure after the first roster submission.

### **Category One Fees**

Pre-K providers may **not** charge Category One children fees for food services. **However, if the child is eligible for Category One only because of PeachCare eligibility, then the family can be charged for meals. This policy is effective for the 2011-2012 school year. The impact of the change in policy for families and providers will be reviewed and then will be re-evaluated for continued implementation in future school years.** Pre-K funds may be used to purchase food if no Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) funding is received.

### **Lead Teacher Salaries**

The following information is based on the FY2012 State Budget. The Department **requires** that Pre-K providers pay lead teachers a minimum salary based on the teacher's credentials. This minimum salary amount reflects 90% of the salary funded by the Department to the provider. The minimum salary amount does not include any additional benefits the teacher may receive. The Department requires the following minimum salaries:

Professional Standards Commission (PSC) or out-of-state certified lead teacher in Early Childhood or Elementary Education – **\$27,073.44**

Four-year college degree in Early Childhood, Elementary Education, or a PSC certificate in Special Education or other specialty field for grades P-12 – **\$19,644.33**  
(see section 12.3 for full requirements)

Two-year College Degree (Pay rate applies only for lead teachers approved at the Associate Degree credential prior to the 2010-2011 school year. This pay rate does not apply for any other teacher or assistant teacher holding these two-year degree level credentials.) – **\$16,211.73**

### **Training & Experience (T&E)**

Certified Pre-K teachers for 2010-2011 school year who received a T&E supplement will be eligible to continue to receive the supplement. However the rate will be reduced to reflect 9 months or 90% of the current salary payments. T&E will be capped at the level achieved at the end of the 2010-2011 school year (i.e., if a teacher was eligible for a "step" at the end of the 2010-2011 school year, then the "step" will be added).

Teachers eligible for the supplement during the 2010-2011 school year who are enrolled and actively participating (taking classes) in an advanced degree program by March 2011 will be eligible for the training "step" upon completion of the degree and verification by the Professional Standards Commission. The change will be effective the month Bright from the Start is notified and all documentation is verified.

Newly hired teachers, including teachers who have been employed in other grades but are new to Pre-K, will not be eligible for the T&E supplement.

### **Assistant Teacher Salaries**

A minimum credential of a Child Development Associate (CDA) is required for an assistant teacher. All credentials for an assistant teacher will be paid at the minimum rate of **\$12,008.68**. Providers are required to pay 100% of the total salary funded by the Department for assistant teachers meeting the credential requirements. Providers can select to pay a minimum of 90% (\$10,807.81) of the total salary funded by the Department ONLY for an assistant teacher not meeting the CDA or higher credential requirement when a waiver is issued. The minimum salary amount does not include any additional benefits the assistant teacher may receive.